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InsideAPHIS

**WANTED:
Asian
Longhorned
Beetle**



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From the Cover

The Asian longhorned beetle has caused the destruction of hardwood trees in neighborhoods in and around Chicago, IL, and Long Island, NY. APHIS has teamed up with these States and communities to battle this destructive pest.

APHIS photo by Kenneth Law

Cover Story

PPQ, Governments, and Communities Battle the Beetle

by Sue McAuley, Legislative and Public Affairs, Riverdale, MD

In August 1996, it was discovered that an alien invader started a sneak attack on the United States by killing our hardwood trees. A man in the Greenpoint neighborhood of Brooklyn, NY, noticed perfectly shaped round holes in the maple trees in front of his home. When he saw sawdust all over the ground near the base of the trees and on the sidewalks, he thought vandals had drilled holes in his trees. He called the department of parks and recreation. An inspector determined that the holes weren't being drilled by local kids, but by a black-and-white beetle that had taken up residence in his trees.

After sending the beetle to entomologists for identification, the parks department learned their find was the dreaded Asian longhorned beetle. Officials were amazed at the extent of damage the beetles had done on the trees. They quickly notified USDA-APHIS of the infestation.

The Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) has since earned the title of pest here, as it has in its home country of China. This beetle is a serious pest of hardwood trees and has no natural enemies in the United States. If this insect were to become established here, it could destroy millions of acres of America's treasured hardwoods, including national forests and backyard trees. The beetle has the potential to damage such industries as lumber, maple syrup, fruit, and tourism. The pest has already contributed to the destruction of more than 2,000 trees in New York and 600 trees in the Chicago, IL, area.

Now APHIS is working with State and local governments and communities in New York and Illinois to halt the march of the beetle.

Teamwork in New York

In New York, APHIS' Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) is spearheading the effort together with New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets.

"Our working relationship has been very good," said PPQ's Joe Gittleman, project director for the ALB program in New York. "PPQ and State program directors have worked side by side since the beginning, planning the best way to conduct the surveys."

In the field, survey groups, which include State inspectors from across New York and PPQ personnel from all over the country, work together to spot the infested trees. Inspectors from the State governments of Delaware and New Jersey have at different times also joined the survey teams.

The ALB program in New York has also received support from the City of New York and village and county governments on Long Island.

Providing office space has been another cooperative effort in New York. When the infestation was found in New York City, the City Department of Parks and Recreation allowed the State and PPQ inspectors to use the basement of the department's communication building for a meeting place and headquarters. The villages on Long Island have also helped out with space.

"The village of Amityville allowed us to use the second floor of the town hall. They've been very cooperative," said Gittleman. "The village of Babylon has also helped out by allowing us to use the town annex for training."

But office space isn't the only contribution local governments have made. They have provided equipment, permits, and other necessities to make



the survey and tree removal a smooth operation.

"Suffolk Parks Department provided bucket trucks so we could check trees on the upper end of the Suffolk County Golf Course," said Gittleman.

The city of New York has also worked to rid Brooklyn and Queens of the beetle by supporting the effort.

"Brooklyn and Queens provided inspectors to check the street trees," explained Gittleman. "The city

BEETLE continued on page 4

PPQ Officer Ovie Ganguly, stationed at John F. Kennedy International Airport, NY, examines an ALB egg mass on a tree on Long Island.

APHIS PHOTO BY KENNETH LAW

USDA Collaborates on Other Invasive Species

by Stacey Carter-Lane, Legislative and Public Affairs, Riverdale, MD

The USDA Interagency Research Forum on Gypsy Moth and Other Invasive Species, held January 19-22 in Annapolis, MD, brought together researchers from USDA agencies, universities, and corporations from various points around the globe. First held 10 years ago to discuss only gypsy moth issues, the forum now encourages attendees to share information on a variety of forest pests.

Clearly, no meeting held on invasive species in the United States this year would be complete without a discussion on the Asian longhorned beetle. Throughout the entire afternoon devoted to the Asian longhorned beetle, researchers showed support and interest in each other's findings, providing hearty applause and insightful questions for presenters.

"They eat and talk research from morning to night," said Forest

Service's Michael McManus, program chairman. "You can accomplish a lot more by working together on certain aspects of research."

Attendees heard from several APHIS experts during the beetle session. Plant Protection and Quarantine's (PPQ) Victor Mastro of Otis Air National Guard Base (ANGB), MA, served as moderator.

During his overview of operational aspects, PPQ's Paul Eggert, Washington, DC, called the response to Asian longhorned beetle and solid wood packing material issues one of APHIS' greatest accomplishments last year. "This is a very complicated issue, but I think everyone should be proud of the response from the government," Eggert said of the collaborative, beetle-fighting efforts.

PPQ's Joseph Cavey, Riverdale, MD, shared how APHIS is fighting

to keep the Asian longhorned beetle out of the United States through the solid wood packing material interim rule. PPQ's Baode Wang, Otis ANGB, shared information obtained from studies conducted in China.

In addition to APHIS experts, other cooperators discussed issues and presented research findings related to the beetle: the USDA Agricultural Research Service's Michael Smith, Beltsville, MD; Ann Hajek of Cornell University; and Stephen Teale of the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

Also at the meeting, PPQ's Charles Schwalbe, Acting Director of APHIS' Center for Plant Health Science and Technology, gave a special presentation on the Center's work, highlighting many collaborative efforts. ❖

government removed street and park trees. They also provided placards during survey so inspectors didn't have to search around the neighborhoods for parking."

Community Contributions

The ALB threat has also mobilized community members to help with the effort. Association meetings, newsletters and museum displays have given the New York program an opportunity to educate the community as well.

"The American Museum of Natural History has created an interactive kiosk on the Asian longhorned beetle," said Gittleman. "The information has also been included on the museum's Website. We've also attended the Nassau/Suffolk Landscape Gardeners' Association Show. They provided us a free booth. About 5,000 people attend the show each year."

Other associations have published news articles to assist members in complying with the regulations required by the quarantine.

Cooperation in Chicago

The Chicago ALB program has also found that cooperation is key. As soon as the first infested trees were found in August 1998, a cooperative effort was established between PPQ, USDA's Forest Service, the State of Illinois, and the city of Chicago.

"The work between the cooperators has been tremendous," said PPQ's Joe Schafer, acting project director for the ALB project in Illinois. "Our cooperation is based on what needs each level of government can fill," explained Schafer.

The city has provided an office, telephones, tree removal for city trees, and bucket trucks. The city forester has also been assigned to the project. In addition, the city has taken care of all resident relations, alerting the residents of the problem and keeping them updated on the tree removal process. The State of Illinois has provided entomologists, surveyors, and regulatory help to establish the quarantine areas.

The cooperation has also been evident between PPQ and the Forest Service. The Forest Service has sent tree climbers and bucket trucks to help surveyors who are now able to have areas of trees looked at that were not visible with only a ground survey. The

Forest Service will also be assisting the city of Chicago with the replanting of trees.

Educating Communities

Through the cooperative effort, all local governments have worked together to provide education. They have trained arborists, nursery owners, and the local utility companies to be on the lookout for the ALB.

"We've had excellent coverage from the local press," said Schafer, speaking of the media's contribution to educating the community.

The cooperation in the battle against this destructive pest has made it possible for planning, surveys, tree removal, and replanting to move along in these two areas with more understanding, continuity, and efficiency. Through the efforts of these governments and communities, the tree life in these neighborhoods will have a better chance of recovery. ❖

PPQ Awards Air Reserve Units for Cooperation

On December 16, 1998, Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) presented certificates of appreciation to units of the 439th Airlift Wing stationed at Westover Air Reserve Base, Chicopee, MA. Westover is the country's largest Air Force Reserve base and, due to its proximity to Europe, services many returning military aircraft destined for other States. The base is approximately 100 miles west of Boston.

In January 1998, the officer responsible for PPQ work at the base retired. To maximize resources in Massachusetts, the position was moved to Boston to help with the increased workload at Logan International Airport. This reassignment was possible because of the Air Reserves' cooperation. The 439th Security

Forces Squadron designated personnel to be USDA military cooperators, who now provide USDA clearance for military aircraft and cargo.

PPQ also recognized the 42nd Aerial Port Squadron, which handles and transports international waste, and Robert Rys, Westover's Chief of Airfield Operations.

"This close cooperation and sharing of resources is a concrete example of what PPQ field employees can do to promote cooperation and efficiency in their work units, especially during a period of both constrained budgets and increasing demands for services," said Richard Mytkowicz, Massachusetts State Plant Health Director. ❖

Catfish Industry Honors WS Employees

by Ed Cullett, Legislative and Public Affairs, Riverdale, MD

The Catfish Farmers of America awarded certificates to five Wildlife Service (WS) employees at their annual meeting in New Orleans for providing outstanding service to the catfish farming industry.

"We are proud that the catfish industry awarded our employees for the quality of their service," said Bobby Acord, WS Deputy Administrator. "We will continue to assist catfish producers with their wildlife conflicts."

WS Alabama State Director Frank Boyd, Mississippi State Director Phil Mastrangelo, Louisiana State Director Dwight LeBlanc, Arkansas State Director Thurman Booth, and Acting Leader of the Research Station in

Starkville, MS, Jim Glahn received the awards on February 19.

From 1970 to 1996, processed catfish production grew from less than 7 million processed pounds to 481 million processed pounds. Catfish sales in 1996 were \$424 million, but \$12.5 million was lost to wildlife, and producers spent \$5.6 million protecting the catfish crop.

Predating birds, including double-crested cormorants, herons, egrets, and pelicans, eat, injure, and disturb the feeding patterns of farm-raised catfish. Other catfish-predating wildlife include otters, turtles, beavers, and raccoons. These animals can also damage structures by burrowing in dikes and roads.

WS provides expertise in the use of nonlethal management techniques, such as enclosing the pond with netting or wire. This blocks the birds from feeding. Wildlife biologists also employ harassment techniques. This includes the use of propane cannons, cracker shells, and other pyrotechnics to scare birds from facilities.

WS also works in conjunction with producers in a roost-harassment program. By using noise-making techniques when birds return to their night roost, WS personnel and producers can disperse birds away from the aquaculture facilities. If dispersal techniques fail, the final option for a catfish farmer is to remove the birds. ❖

Senator Visits New WS Building in Colorado



APHIS PHOTO BY STUART McDONALD

Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell (center) was led on a tour of the National Wildlife Research Center's new Wildlife Sciences Building by Richard Curnow, Director of the NWRC, and Rick Bruggers, NWRC's Assistant Director.

Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-CO) inspects the Wildlife Services, National Wildlife Research Center's (NWRC) recently completed Wildlife Science Building. The new building, located on the Foothills Campus of Colorado State University, is a \$14 million, state-of-the-art research facility. The completion of the facility is an outstanding example of private and public cooperation and collaboration with educational institutions. ❖

Inside Profile: Lu-Ann Kubicar

by Stacey Newton, *International Services, Washington, DC*

As one of only four Veterinary Services (VS) animal health technicians working in the field in Pennsylvania, Lu-Ann Kubicar's area of coverage is in the southeastern corner of the State—right in the heart of Pennsylvania Dutch country. Working from home in Lancaster County, her typical workday involves traveling through the scenic, rolling farmlands of Pennsylvania. Lancaster is a place where, as she describes it, "country meets city, and very closely too." Daily, she works directly with farmers and the Amish communities who remain deeply connected to the land. Her love for the job, people, and place is apparent. After all, she grew up on a 280-acre beef and sheep farm in Scenery Hills, Washington County, just west of Lancaster. She also attended Pennsylvania State University, majoring in agriculture.

Even with Kubicar's farming background and education, she says she has learned a lot during her 2 years as an animal health technician. Schedules are important and routines are a daily part of the life of a technician. The technician can often be one of the first to be called upon when an animal health problem arises. For example, during the 1997–1998 avian influenza outbreak in northern Lancaster County, Kubicar was one of the first persons called in to conduct field monitoring and surveillance in the Mannheim-Mount Joy area. This area was subsequently closed to routine activities by a quarantine incorporating a 5-mile radius of this busy agricultural region.

Animal health technicians are critical for animal health monitoring and surveillance activities and also for carrying out interstate regulatory work that prevents diseased animals from crossing State lines. A technician's role in testing contributes to the first line of defense in protecting the

livelihood of farm families, producers, and processors. Kubicar works independently and also as a member of the VS team. Good communication and self-discipline are the keys to her success.

Kubicar communicates with the VS Area Office in Harrisburg—45 miles away—with a laptop computer to access Lotus Notes and the Internet. The telephone is also a critical tool for accessing and providing essential statistical information and timely updates.

Her dependency on such office technology stands out in vivid contrast to the chosen lifestyle of many of her Amish customers. A healthy respect for the Amish people and traditions, such as forgoing modern conveniences, enables her to do her job without some of the cultural hindrances. "The Amish have gotten to know us," she says. "The community here complies

with testing procedures; they understand that diseases can affect their livelihood." As she has observed, some Amish farmers, in an effort to accommodate the communication process without giving into convenience, have installed telephones, but specifically only on a pole in the middle of a field. To an outsider, this may seem a strange juxtaposition of technology, tradition, and location. However, whenever Kubicar needs to communicate, she says, "I just let it ring 8 or 10 times until someone answers."

From the pastoral life in Lancaster, Kubicar also travels to downtown Philadelphia to live bird markets. There, she works closely with State officials to test for two major poultry diseases: avian influenza and Newcastle disease. It is not unusual for shoppers to encounter Kubicar and her colleagues dressed in white



APHIS PHOTO BY TOM SCHOELZEO

Animal Health Technician Lu-Ann Kubicar stands with horses she inspects at the New Holland, PA, sales stables. She conducts inspections there to ensure only healthy animals are brought in and sold.



APHIS PHOTO BY TOM SCHOELZEO

In the parking area of the New Holland, PA, sales stables, Kubicar greets a horse owned by Amish customers. Although not inspecting the horses here, she does frequently work with the Amish in the area in testing animals and conducting surveys.

coveralls, boots, hairnets, and gloves while they collect testing samples. As she observes, this sometimes arouses a fair amount of curiosity. However, inspectors try to keep the procedure as low-key as possible as they take samples to ensure that incoming birds are healthy and not carrying potentially devastating diseases.

Also working with State officials, Kubicar assists with animal identification in livestock markets. With the VS animal identification coordinator, she helps ensure that each animal carries a coded tag specific to that market. In the event of a disease outbreak, these tags are used to trace livestock and determine the origin and location of animals.

Kubicar also is working on the National Animal Health Monitoring System's (NAHMS) Equine '98 Study. The goal of this 28-State study is to collect data on the health, demographics, and management practices in U.S. equine populations. The information

gathered will be shared with industry, research, and academia. Kubicar's role is to conduct on-site interviews and collect specimens for testing from selected equine premises. The samples are sent to either the National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, IA, or the Agricultural Research Services' Russell Research Center in Athens, GA, for analysis. Kubicar concludes her survey with follow-up telephone interviews.

In the course of sample collection and interviewing, Kubicar thrives on the opportunity to work one-on-one with her customers. In this way, she learns more about the horses, the owners' particular area of expertise, and the way the animals are raised. In her many travels, it's not uncommon for her new customers to know the same farm families she knows or to maybe even share their hometown. It's often like meeting an old friend.

For many, the pace and extent of Kubicar's daily schedule would be overwhelming. When asked about her

secret for keeping up her pace with work—not to mention the pace of her infant son—she has a ready reply. She attributes a great deal of her self-motivation and endurance to her study of karate. As a black belt for 7 years, she believes that martial arts sharpen her reflexes and enhance alertness. Mentally, karate provides focus; physically, it helps develop agility and strength. More than once, she says, it has enabled her to sidestep or scale a fence to avoid contrary cattle at livestock markets.

Kubicar is certainly an example of how an employee balances work, family, and outside interests. In taking care of her physical well-being, she also enhances the mental, emotional, and spiritual parts of her life. By keeping it all in balance, Lu-Ann Kubicar enriches her job performance, and equally as important, her appreciation for her job. ❖

Bobby Acord Receives 1998 Presidential Rank Award

by Ed Currett, *Legislative and Public Affairs, Riverdale, MD*

Wildlife Services (WS) Deputy Administrator Bobby Acord has made APHIS proud in receiving a 1998 Presidential Rank Award as a meritorious executive.

The award recognizes Acord's vision and leadership, which has brought WS into step with public attitudes and trends as they relate to wildlife damage management issues in the 1990's. The most visible reflection of this has been WS' emphasis on the identification and development of nonlethal control methods through its National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC), the only research center in the world devoted exclusively to resolving human-wildlife conflicts. During the past 5 years, WS has invested more than \$35 million towards the effort.

Also under Acord's leadership, NWRC has relocated its research headquarters from Denver, CO, to Fort Collins, CO, and is in the process of completing new facilities there. The final construction and lease contract for NWRC will save the Federal Government at least \$50 million over the life of the lease.

Since becoming the Deputy Administrator in 1990, Acord has presided over a 170-percent increase in cooperative (non-Federal) funding for the WS program. Other significant accomplishments include the establishment of the Berryman Institute for Wildlife Damage Management at Utah State University in Logan, UT; the program's emphasis on strategic planning; and addressing the increasing demand for WS' assistance in the protection of public safety, natural resources, and new segments of American agriculture, such as aquaculture.



USDA PHOTO

WS Deputy Administrator Bobby Acord

"This award is a prestigious honor that recognizes and celebrates career senior executives who exemplify the highest level of integrity and leadership and who have demonstrated exceptional performance during their executive careers. Bobby Acord certainly fits this description," said Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman.

Amidst such high praise from the Secretary of Agriculture and others within APHIS, Acord still manages to be humble about his coveted prize. "I think this award is just as much a reflection of the dedication and professionalism of our employees as it is a reflection on me," said Acord, who hails from Buckley, WV. "I am honored by this award and vow to continue guiding WS to the best of my abilities."

Acord is responsible for managing the Federal response to the growing national issue of wildlife damage, an

arena with highly vocal and competing stakeholders with opposing interests. Acord has managed to balance the needs and interests of program stakeholders and keep pace with changing societal attitudes towards wildlife.

The Presidential Rank Award is just the latest award for Acord. He received performance awards in 1994, 1995, and 1996. In 1993, the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies passed a resolution commending WS for its leadership, direction, cooperation, and responsiveness to the need to conduct a socially acceptable, environmentally sound, and effective wildlife damage management program. In 1995, the "Living With Wildlife Campaign," an intensive public outreach effort directed by Acord, was awarded the Berryman Wildlife Management Communications Award.

Acord is a graduate of West Virginia University where he earned a bachelor's degree in animal science in 1966. While attending college, he worked on sheep research projects involving forage digestibility. After receiving his degree, he joined USDA and began a leave of absence to serve 3 years in the U.S. Army Veterinary Service. He returned to USDA after completing his military service.

Acord belongs to the Wildlife Society, Society for Range Management, International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, and the Alpha Zeta Alumni Association. ❖

Torres New Head of Veterinary Services

On January 3, Alfonso Torres, became APHIS' Deputy Administrator for Veterinary Services (VS).

"Alfonso brings a wealth of veterinary knowledge and management experience to the VS Deputy Administrator's position," said APHIS Administrator Craig Reed. "I am confident that he will strengthen and invigorate APHIS and continue to work toward a better USDA."

For the last several years, Torres worked with USDA's Agricultural Research Service as the director of the Plum Island Animal Disease Center on Plum Island, N.Y. While there, he also worked with VS' Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory.

Before coming to USDA in 1991, Torres managed the virology development department at SmithKline Beecham Animal Health in Lincoln,

NE, for 5 years and was the new products manager for Latin America at Ames Company in Cali, Colombia, for 2 years.

Torres worked in academia for 16 years at a number of universities including the National University of Colombia in Bogota, Colombia, the University of Nebraska, and Cornell University. He has been a doctor of veterinary medicine for thirty years and has also earned a doctorate in medical microbiology specializing in virology, and a M.S. in veterinary pathology.

VS' Associate Deputy Administrator, Tom Walton, was the Acting Deputy Administrator for 4 months until Torres' appointment. ❖

The APHIS Family

Fund Established to Aid WS Employee Suffering From Leukemia

by Ed Cullett, Legislative and Public Affairs, Riverdale, MD

Wisconsin Wildlife Services employee Bob Willging, husband and father of two small children, has entered the Froedtert Hospital in Milwaukee, WI, to begin preparations for a bone marrow transplant with the hope of curing his chronic myelogenous leukemia, a cancer of the blood.

Willging was diagnosed with the disease a little over a year ago. Unfortunately, drug therapy did not improve his condition. After much consideration, he opted for the bone marrow transplant, which, if successful, would cure his disease. The bone marrow transplant procedure began January 21 with Willging receiving high doses of chemotherapy and radiation for 7 days to kill his old

marrow system. The actual bone marrow transplant occurred January 28.

The surgery cost about \$200,000 with Willging's insurance covering 80 percent of the costs. The remaining 20 percent and additional expenses cost the family more than \$50,000.

A fund has been set up to help the Willging's with medical and related expenses. If you would like to make a contribution, you may send your donation to:

The Bob Willging Leukemia Fund
Attn: Sandy Stafford
Associated Bank
P.O. Box 677
Rhineland, WI 54501 ❖

Get More APHIS News On the Net

Although *Inside APHIS* is published every quarter, we want you to be able to read about APHIS activities when they are more current, and to access them more quickly. That's why we established *APHIS Online*; it's posted on APHIS' Intranet. *Online* is published every 2 weeks and covers APHIS activities, accomplishments, and awards in a brief format. You can scan through it anytime without the delay of printing and distribution.

The *APHIS Online* site includes archives and electronic versions of *Inside APHIS*. You can go directly to *APHIS Online* and bookmark it at

http://inside.aphis.usda.gov/planning/aphis_online/

You can also find *APHIS Online* through the APHIS News Intranet page. When you go to the Intranet home page, you'll see an icon for APHIS News. Clicking there gives you quick access to several news sources. One link takes you to Mike Causey's "Federal Diary," which is published daily in the *Washington Post*. Causey provides a variety of information Federal employees may be interested in, including buyouts, open seasons, union activities, and TSP fund rates.

News Alert is a daily clipping service, for APHIS and by APHIS, that lets you know what daily newspapers and wire services are writing about APHIS and topics of interest to APHIS employees. ❖

Retirements

Inside APHIS would like to wish the best to those who retired from May through December of 1998. Thanks for all your hard work.

Office of the Administrator

Lemon, Clarence	Washington, DC	05/98
Psaltis, Edmond	Riverdale, MD	05/98

Animal Care

Hendricks, Hugh	Woodland, GA	11/98
Johnson, Louis	Neosho, MO	05/98

APHIS Business Services

LaCovey, Shirley	Riverdale, MD	10/98
Webb, Cathy	Riverdale, MD	10/98
Whitaker, Gary	Riverdale, MD	12/98

International Services

Cavanaugh, James	Nairobi, Kenya	06/98
Cooney, Patrick	San Jose, Costa Rica	11/98
Decorse, Samuel	Tuxtla Gutierrez, Mexico	09/98
Galvin, Thomas	Panama City, Panama	06/98
Garcia, Rafael	Mexico City, Mexico	07/98
Garnett, Wesley, Jr.	Washington, DC	11/98
Hauschild, Edward	Tuxtla Gutierrez, Mexico	09/98
Matos Ripoll, Pedro	Managua, Nicaragua	08/98
Miyamoto, Ray	Beijing, China	10/98
Ramirez, Ramiro	Tuxtla Gutierrez, Mexico	09/98

Plant Protection and Quarantine

Brothers, Mary	Isle, MI	11/98
Burnett, John	Seattle, WA	07/98
Casey, George, Jr.	Philadelphia, PA	10/98
Chase, David	Portland, OR	11/98
Chun, Clyde	Honolulu, HI	11/98
Denny, Walter	Beltsville, MD	04/98
Edmonds, Robert	Milwaukee, WI	05/98
Eng, Hemock	New York, NY	09/98
Fry, James	Atlanta, GA	09/98
Gonzalez, Hernan	Miami, FL	09/98
Herbaugh, Larry	Prattville, AL	04/98
Hill, Russell	Pensacola, FL	07/98
Isakson, O.	Milwaukee, WI	05/98
Kwon, Nyung	New Orleans, LA	10/98
Ladner, Douglas	Little Rock, AR	10/98
Melton, Florence	Gulfport, MS	10/98
Nepomuceno, Cesar	San Francisco, CA	05/98
Otaguro, George	Waimanalo, HI	05/98
Pollard, Roger	Twin Falls, ID	06/98
Ransom, Richard	Trenton, NJ	10/98
Shabazian, Armen	Anchorage, AK	08/98

Spence, James, III	Gulfport, MS	12/98
Tenney, Harrison, Jr.	Honolulu, HI	09/98
Thacker, Gordon	Waimanalo, HI	09/98
Thomas, Cadow	Brunswick, GA	10/98
Tripps, Pamela	Baltimore, MD	11/98
Vigil, John	El Paso, TX	10/98
Wood, John	Riverdale, MD	10/98

Policy and Program Development

Doyle, Janice	Hyattsville, MD	12/98
Pizel, Robert	Riverdale, MD	08/98
Trail, Esther	Riverdale, MD	05/98

Veterinary Services

Alstad, Arnold	Ames, IA	05/98
Burgess, Albert	Cheyenne, WY	06/98
Chentland, Joyce	Ames, IA	12/98
Holland, Hersel	Strawberry Plains, TN	11/98
Howard, Dale	Tempe, AZ	11/98
Jensen, Paul	Austin, TX	05/98
Kasselder, Charles	Broken Bow, NE	10/98
Lancaster, Richard	Flora, MS	11/98
Nelson, Walter, Jr.	Gainesville, FL	06/98
Person, Donald	St. Paul, MN	09/98
Randall, Donald, Jr.	Ames, IA	10/98
Sierra, Jose	Candor, NY	06/98
Snider, Carol	Fort Collins, CO	10/98
Stansell, Carolyn	Little Rock, AR	10/98
Stevens, Norman	Tampa, FL	11/30
Utterback, William	Sacramento, CA	08/98
Wolfe, James	Bowling Green, KY	05/98
Yzaguirre, Hector	Rio Grande City, TX	11/98

Wildlife Services

Brooks, Joe	Fort Collins, CO	06/98
Conrad, John	Ogallala, NE	07/98
Cowan, Nancy	Okalahoma City, OK	11/98
Decker, David	Gainesville, FL	04/98
Dice, Vyvyan	Sacramento, CA	08/98
Fiedler, Lynwood	Fort Collins, CO	08/98
Humphrey, Jay	Montrose, CO	05/98
Johns, Brad	Fort Collins, CO	05/98
Smillie, Sella	Fort Collins, CO	09/98
Smith, Joyce	Lincoln, NE	08/98
Snay, Dwight	Thomas, OK	07/98
Tucker, Everett	Broken Bow, OK	07/98

Deaths

Inside APHIS offers condolences to the families and coworkers of those who passed away in the latter part of 1998.

Investigative and Enforcement Services

Billops, Alecia	Fort Worth, TX	12/98
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Plant Protection and Quarantine

Fisher, Jack	Kailua Kona, HI	08/98
Williamson, Robert	Brownsville, TX	11/98

Wildlife Services

Appel, Sylvia	Fort Collins, CO	08/98
Lyon, Eldon	Rancho Cordova, CA	10/98



APHIS Cooperator Dies Working Import Shipment Mike Williams Made Honorary USDA Member by Glickman

by Ned Cardenas, Veterinary Services, Riverdale, MD

Mike Williams, an APHIS cooperator with the Miami Animal Import Center (MAIC), died on August 21, 1998, his 47th birthday. Williams died as a result of a fatal accident at the ramp of the MAIC import barn while working a shipment of 23 horses from the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Williams was vice president of Animal Air Services, Inc., the only animal handling service bonded by the U.S. Customs Service licensed to operate in Miami International Airport.

Veterinary Services (VS) employees organized and planned a celebration of Williams' life, held on November 18 at the MAIC flag pole garden. VS employees offered and dedicated prayers to the victims of the Oklahoma Federal Building bombing at this same garden. Brokers, freight forwarders, colleagues, coworkers, friends, and relatives attended the luncheon and tribute. Almost everyone involved in animal shipping activities in Miami attended.

The tribute began with a welcome address from Ned Cardenas, at the time, a veterinary medical officer at the MAIC. Then, impromptu comments were delivered regarding personal and

professional relationships with Williams. John Parsons, a veterinary medical officer at MAIC, recalled Williams' professionalism and willingness to help and cooperate with VS employees during animal shipments. He made it easier for everyone to accomplish the USDA mission and animal-shipping goals. Parsons administered first aid to Williams before he was put in the ambulance on that solemn day.

After a silent prayer, Ulysses Lane, VS Area Veterinarian in Charge of Florida, read and dedicated a plaque to honor Mike Williams. The plaque reads:

"For his dedicated work and concern for animals traveling through Miami, and especially for his million dollar smile." Mike's parents and sisters assisted in mounting the plaque.

Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman made Mike Williams an Honorary Member of USDA upon his death. His plaque bears not only a photograph portraying his big smile, but also the official USDA seal. The plaque hangs on a wall in the MAIC administrative office for all passing through to see and remember. ❖

Robert Williamson

by Mel Charles, Plant Protection and Quarantine, Brownsville, TX

Robert L. Williamson, Central Region Director, Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ), died on November 28, 1998. Williamson and his wife, Susan, were both struck head-on while riding their motorcycles. Bob died immediately, while Susan suffered multiple injuries.

"Bob was not only a well admired colleague and leader but a close personal friend," said Al Elder, Deputy Administrator, PPQ. "It is a devastating loss to the organization, professionally, and to each of us who knew him personally."

Williamson had been the Regional Director for PPQ's Central Region since June 1990. While there, he worked closely with his Regional Support Staff and State Plant Health Directors. He also temporarily oversaw PPQ's Western Regional office in Sacramento, CA.

He transferred to the Central Region in Brownsville, TX, from Hyattsville, MD, where he served as Director of Operational Support since 1982. Before that, he was Chief Staff Officer of the Environmental Evaluation Staff. He was the Assistant Regional Director in Mexico for 15 months while the PPQ Regional Office was located in Monterrey, Mexico. Williamson began his career with PPQ in 1969 in Hyattsville as the Assistant Chief Staff Officer, Survey and Detection Staff. Prior to APHIS, he worked as a Research Assistant with the Agricultural Research Service.

Williamson received his Bachelor of Science degree in Entomology from the University of Idaho in 1961. He served in the U.S. Army from 1961 to 1963 and received his doctorate in Entomology from the University of California, Riverside, in 1967. He is survived by his wife, one daughter, and two granddaughters. ❖

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